



Press Release

Head of United Nations Counter-Terrorism Office concludes visit to the Republic of Uzbekistan

On 16 May, Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), concluded a four-day visit to Tashkent, the Republic of Uzbekistan, upon the invitation of the Government.

During his visit, Mr. Voronkov engaged with high-level Uzbek officials, signed the updated UNOCT-Uzbekistan Joint Road Map, as well as the Joint Plan of Action with the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO-RATS). He also participated in the opening and closing ceremonies of the Central Asia Regional Expert Council on Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Returnees from conflict zones.

On 15 May, in a meeting with H.E. Mr. Shavkat Mirziyoyev, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Mr. Voronkov expressed gratitude for Uzbekistan's strong support in implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia and for establishing the Regional Expert Council on the reintegration and rehabilitation on returnees from conflict zones. They discussed the security landscape in the region, areas of collaboration and the strategic importance of the upcoming United Nations Summit of the Future.

On 14 May, Mr. Voronkov and Mr. Bakhtiyor Saidov, Minister of Foreign Affairs signed an updated Roadmap between UNOCT and the Republic of Uzbekistan. The Roadmap will strategically expand collaboration between UNOCT and the Government of Uzbekistan in countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism. Mr. Bakhtiyor Saidov welcomed the signing of this Roadmap, noting that the updates align with Uzbekistan's security priorities and its commitment to regional stability. Since 2019, Uzbekistan has benefitted from 100 capacity-building activities through 21 UNOCT programmes and projects.

Earlier that day, Mr. Voronkov attended the opening ceremony of the Central Asia Regional Expert Council on Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Returnees. In his opening remarks, Mr. Voronkov commended the establishment of this first-of-its-kind regional initiative, aimed at strengthening national and regional rehabilitation and reintegration efforts through enhanced cooperation, coordination, and sharing of practices and lessons learned.

This event gathered more than 100 high-level representatives and experts from relevant Ministries and national coordinating bodies from the Central Asian region who are involved in ongoing repatriation, prosecution, rehabilitation, and reintegration efforts of nationals returning from conflict zones. Representatives of 15 civil society organizations from around the region were also in attendance and actively contributed to the discussions. The event was hosted and funded by the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan and co-organized by UNOCT, the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy in Central Asia (UNRCCA), and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).

On 14 May, Mr. Voronkov and Mr. Ruslan Mirzaev, Director of the Executive Committee of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO-RATS) signed a Joint Plan of Action for 2024-2026 to enhance programmatic partnership.

On the margins of his visit, Mr. Voronkov also met with Mr. Abdulaziz Kamilov, Deputy Secretary of the Security Council under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Special Representative of the President on Foreign Policy; Mr. Po'lat Bobojonov, Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan; Mr. Eldor Aripov, Director of the Institute for Strategic and Regional Studies; and Mr. Abdusalom Azizov, Chair of the State Security Service of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Mr. Voronkov also held meetings with civil society organizations and UN country team officials in Tashkent.